

Newark Riverfront Guide

\$3

For over 20 years, we have worked together to create the riverfront Newark wants: healthy, accessible, prosperous & welcoming to all residents & visitors. Use this guide to get connected to your river & make it a true expression of Newarkness!

INSIDE!

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This Fold-Out Poster tells you about the victories & challenges of healing our environment, building riverfront parks & most importantly how you can get involved today.

October 2014

Not Just Water Under the Bridge

Newark & Its River

For thousands of years, the Passaic River has attracted people to the place we call Newark. Here Native Americans caught fish, Puritans founded a religious state, & immigrants & African-Americans arrived to work industrial jobs.

But for the last 50 years, Newark has been cut off from the river. Bad development decisions, toxic pollution & industrial disinvestment have separated the river from the life, imagination & spirit of the city.

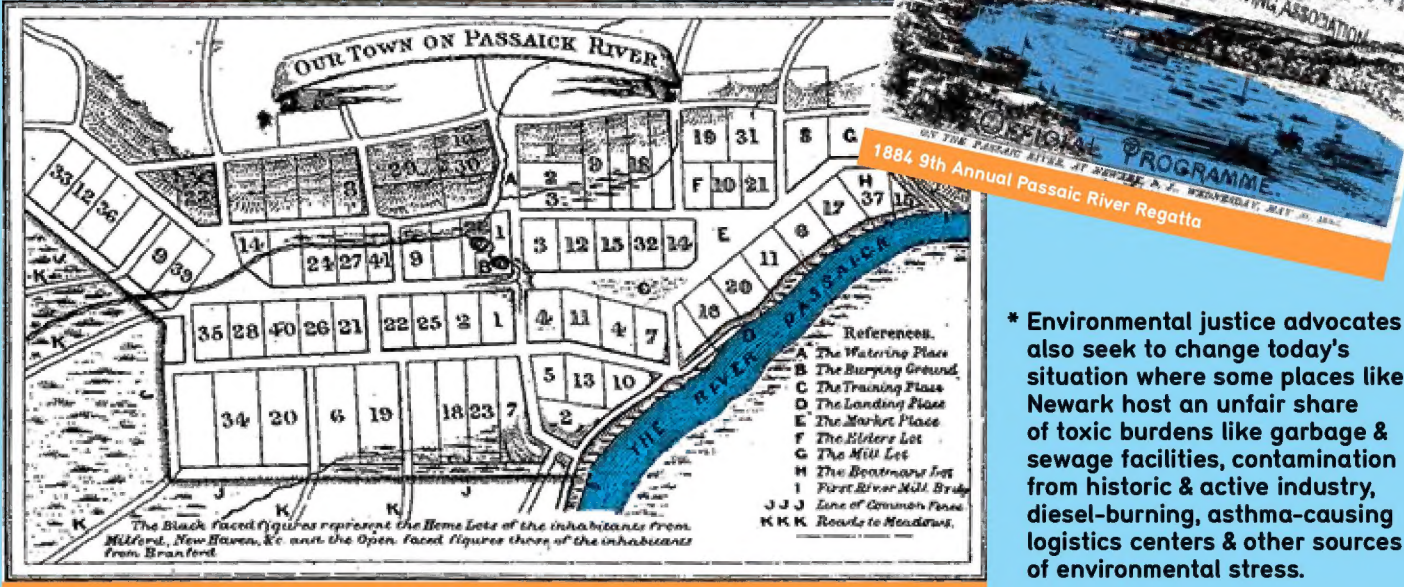
All the while, people who care about Newark's riverfront have produced visions & organized their communities to reconnect Newarkers to their river.

This poster is dedicated to the efforts of all people seeking environmental justice on Newark's riverfront, the principle that all people deserve to live in & share the benefits of healthy environments regardless of wealth, race & any other differences.*

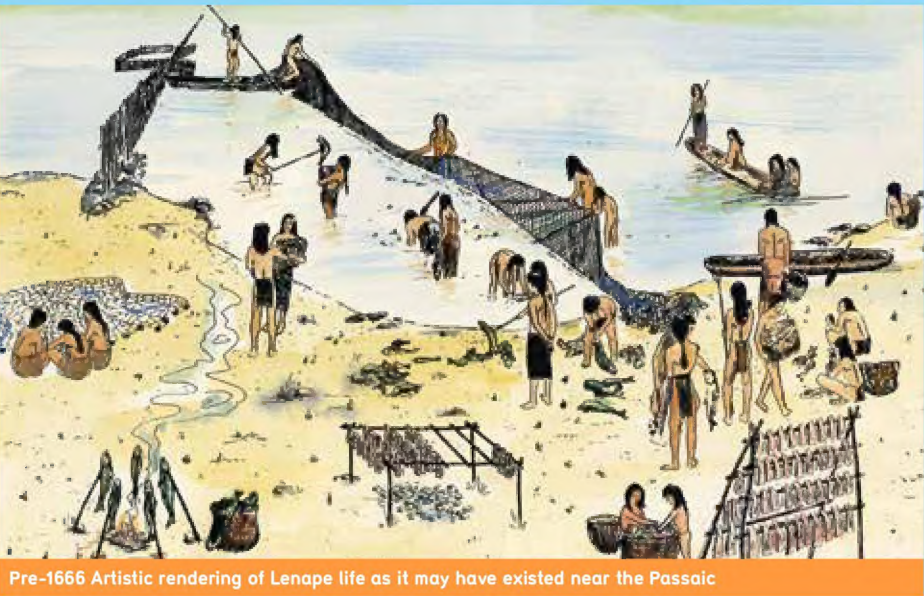
Down by the Passaic, humans & other animals have developed a special & dramatic relationship with the river & what it brings. Here's to the future of this intimate & proud dance of water & life.



1666 "No money, no land". Tense riverfront meeting between Puritans & Lenape leads to land dispute that sends settlers in retreat to Elizabeth for over a year

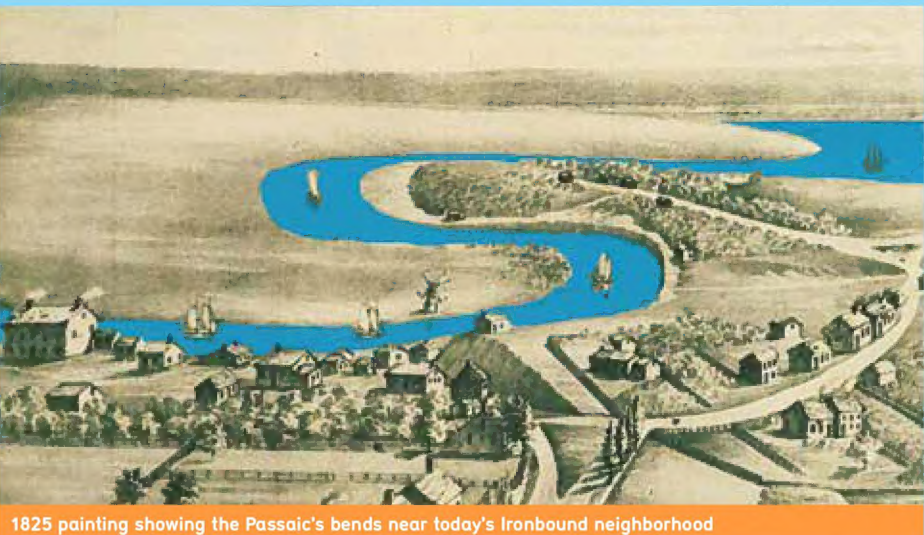


1667 Original plan for Puritans "Our Town on Passaic River"



Pre-1666 Artistic rendering of Lenape life as it may have existed near the Passaic

The first people here called themselves Lenape, meaning "common people." Lenape groups including the Hackensack & Acquackanonk lived in the Newark area & traveled the river to find fish, birds & deer.



1825 painting showing the Passaic's bends near today's Ironbound neighborhood

In 1666, after King Charles II forced their Milford colony to merge with New Haven, 30 families of English-born Puritans led by Captain Robert Treat sailed from New Haven Bay to the Passaic River. They first call their settlement "Our Town on Passaic River" and later "New-Ark." The arrival of the Puritans starts the genocide & forced displacement of existing Lenape residents. Today about 6000 Lenape people live in Oklahoma.



1876 Balbach Smelting & Refining Works, today the site of the Orange Sticks

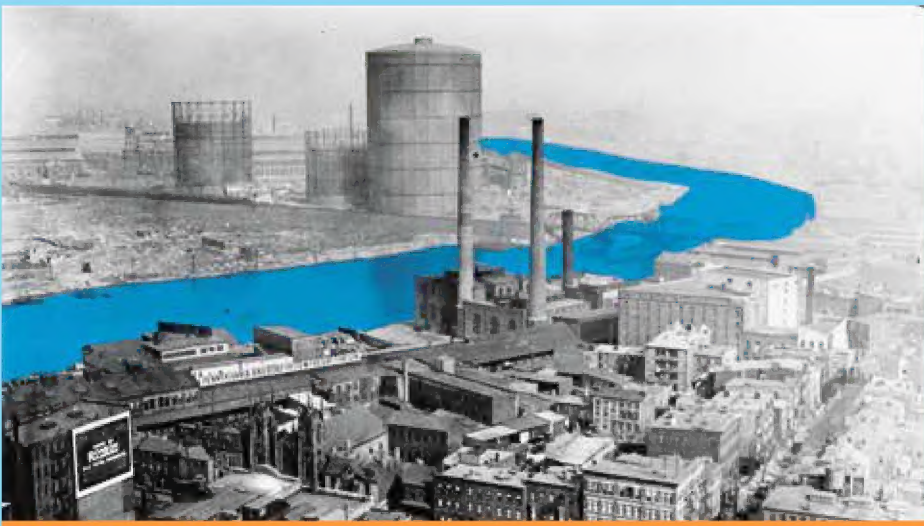


1870 Commercial River with Penn Station bridge at bottom right

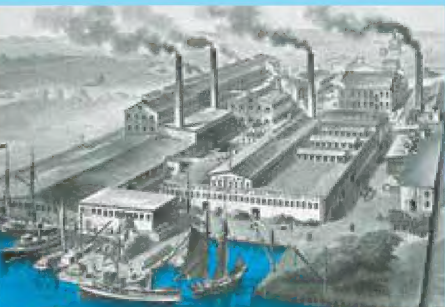
In the 1800s, Newark grew a thriving manufacturing & shipping economy along the Passaic. With the completion of the Morris Canal in 1831 & a thick web of railroads by century's end, Newark hosted key infrastructure to enable dense urban life in the northeast United States. Scores of mainly European immigrants came to Newark for jobs & built a new life. The river provided transportation, water & a place to dispose industrial & human waste for a growing city: oil, chemicals, paint, sewage & more.



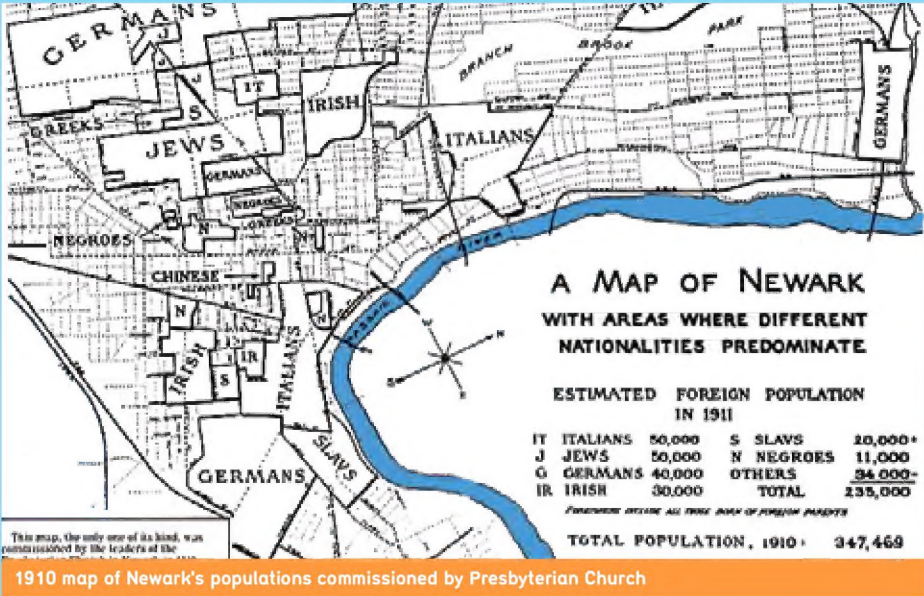
1874 Newark extends from river's edge to the horizon



1928 Downtown Newark in view of Harrison's gigantic gas holders, imploded & demolished in 1996



1876 Lister Chemical Works, "Manufacturers of Pure Charcoal & Fertilizers," future production site of Agent Orange



1910 map of Newark's populations commissioned by Presbyterian Church

Beginning in the 1910s, the Great Migration brought 100,000 African-Americans to Newark from the South. From the 1940s through the 1970s, a new culture & politics was born in Newark including jazz, house, hip hop, Afrocentrism & Black Power, even as suburbs spread & riverfront companies chose to close factories, moving operations to places where they could pay workers less.

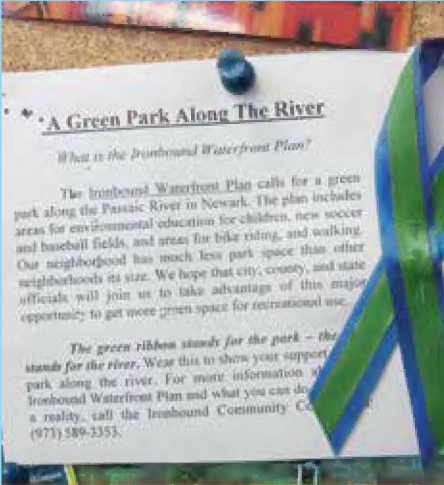


1979-1991 Black Culture at the Riverfront: Flyer & photographs from Club Zanzibar, formerly located near Route 280 at the Passaic River

From the 1960s to the early 2000s, many plans to reinvent Newark's riverfront failed to attract enough support to return the city to its river. While proposals for high-rise offices & condos, a huge conference center on stilts & a two-mile riverfront promenade went unrealized, some of these plans did result in odd fragmentary projects like downtown's riverfront FBI building & the incomplete Army Corps of Engineers bulkhead.



2004 Unrealized plan for area just east of Penn Station, image of a sad & soulless city



2003 ICC organized seniors to make 5000 ribbons to support the Ironbound Waterfront Plan: "The green ribbon stands for the park—the blue stands for the river"



2011 Newark Riverfront Park construction sign designed with students from St Vincent's Academy



1918 "These are they with hope in their hearts": Family from Florida just arrived to Newark



1966 Amiri Baraka & others at Spirit House, hub of culture & politics

In the early 1980s, the Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company on Lister Avenue was found responsible for dumping dioxin, a deadly cancer-causing chemical, into the river from 1951 to 1969. The company, today part of global energy giant Occidental Petroleum, had knowingly produced & dumped dioxin while making Agent Orange, an herbicidal weapon for the US war in Vietnam.

Since then, environmental justice advocates have demanded a thorough cleanup. In the 1990s, Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) organized residents around plans for public riverfront access to benefit existing neighborhoods, eventually convincing Essex County & Newark to build the city's first riverfront parks.



2009 Downtown Riverfront Walkshop near FBI



Since 2009, over 2500 Newark residents & visitors have taken 2-hour boat tours on the Passaic



2014 Current state of former Diamond Shamrock site, a tomb for dioxin capped with 8 feet of concrete, seen from NJ Transit & PATH trains

In 2009, Newark Riverfront Revival was launched by the Newark Planning Office to build riverfront parks, make rules for riverfront development & bring every Newarker to the river with local culture, arts & education including boat tours, gospel festivals, House parties, water workshops & more. In 2014, the federal government announced a river cleanup.



June 2, 2012 First annual Newark Walks to the Water, led by Malcolm X Shabazz Marching Band



Newark Riverfront 3000: In 2009, young people investigated the riverfront & created a vision for the year 3000



Newark Riverfront Park Segment 2, featuring a bright orange recycled plastic boardwalk



August 3, 2013 Second annual Newark River Celebration & opening of the Orange Boardwalk

Passaic Environmental Briefing

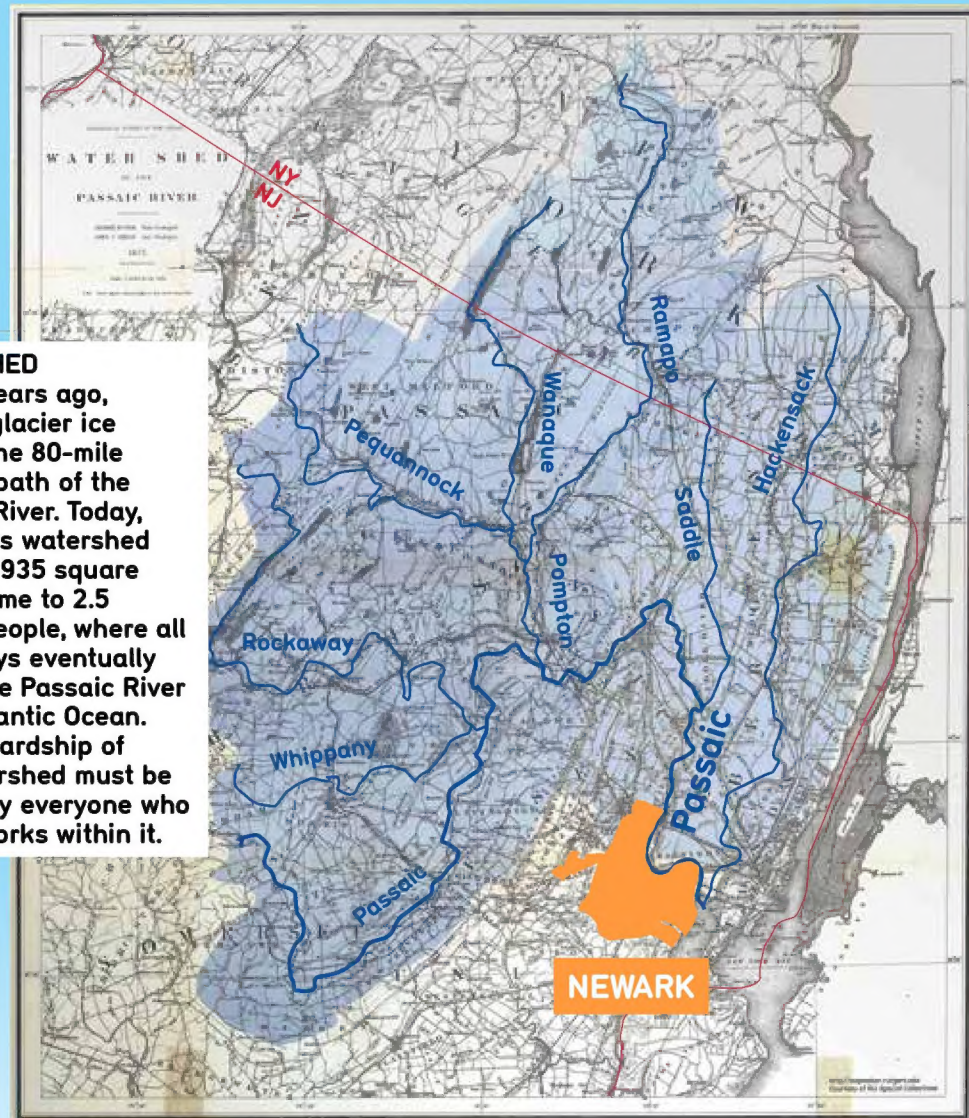
Many environmental burdens of the industrial economy in the northeast United States are concentrated in Newark near the Passaic River. Since the 1800s, sewage, dumping, industrial wastes & emissions have damaged the river's environment & water quality. Although the lower 17 miles of the Passaic River have been declared the largest Superfund site in America—a highly contaminated place that must be cleaned by the polluters responsible—there is life in this river, a whole ecosystem for us to see & steward! As an individual, you can act to improve water quality. But some of the biggest problems involve debates over who caused the pollution & who should pay to clean it up. Learn about the problems on this page & then read Get There, Get Into It, Get Involved on the back cover to do something about them.

NATURAL AQUARIUM

When Puritans first saw the Passaic River, they described it as "a great natural aquarium." Despite environmental damage caused by humans since then, the river remains full of life. Common birds & fish are shown below.

WATERSHED

13,000 years ago, melting glacier ice formed the 80-mile winding path of the Passaic River. Today, the river's watershed includes 935 square miles, home to 2.5 million people, where all waterways eventually run to the Passaic River & the Atlantic Ocean. The stewardship of the watershed must be shared by everyone who lives & works within it.



CONSERVE WATER! HEAL THE RIVER!

DIOXIN & SUPERFUND CLEANUP

From 1951 to 1969, a company named Diamond Shamrock dumped the toxic chemical dioxin into the river. Between 1994 & 2004, the US government listed the Passaic's lower 17 miles on the Superfund National Priorities List due to extreme contamination & began to investigate who was responsible.

As required by Superfund law, a first small cleanup was completed in 2012 by one of the polluting companies under government supervision. A dredging crane on a barge removed contaminated mud from the river bottom near Diamond Shamrock, after which the toxic mud was drained of water & shipped to a Texas landfill.

In 2014, the US Environmental Protection Agency recommended that polluters including Occidental Petroleum, a company valued at \$75 billion, undertake a \$1.7 billion cleanup of the river's lower 8 miles. The process will take 6-10 years.

SEWAGE TREATMENT

Since opening in 1924, the Passaic Valley Sewer Commission (PVSC) on Wilson Avenue located along the river has cleaned dirty water from Newark & surrounding areas before it returns the treated water to New York Harbor near the Statue of Liberty.

CREATE GREEN SPACE TO ABSORB RAIN

Corvanta Incinerator

Keep floating garbage out of the river by not littering!

Create greenspace & plant trees to absorb rain & prevent Combined Sewer Overflow!

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW

When it rains for 15 minutes or more, rainwater falling into street drains can overwhelm the sewer system, requiring the sewage treatment plant to release untreated sewage into the river & harbor.

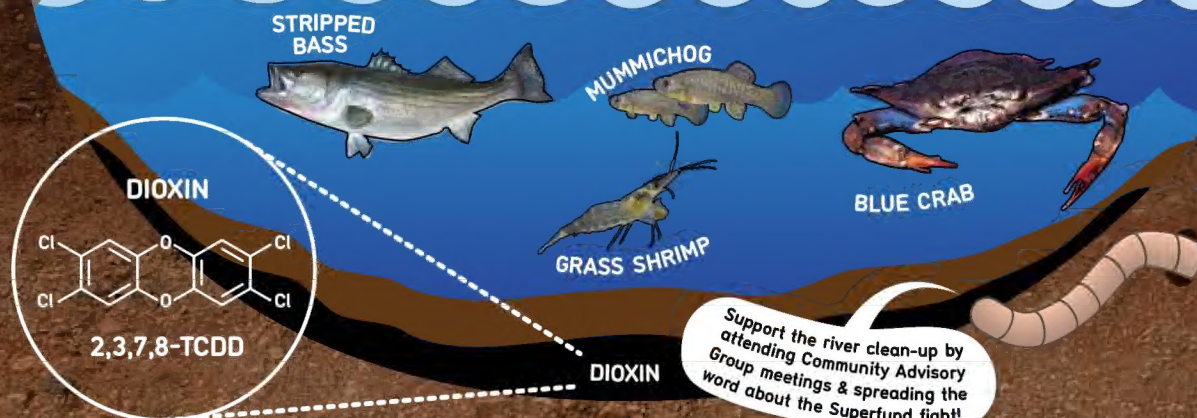
The 5th largest sewer treatment plant in the country, PVSC cleans 240 million gallons of dirty water per day from 2 million people in 48 North New Jersey municipalities.



EATING THESE CRABS CAN KILL YOU
It is very dangerous to eat fish, crabs or anything else from the Passaic River until the river cleanup is complete. These creatures eat & absorb contamination in the river bottom & cause cancer in humans.

The mud under the Passaic River, often called "black mayonnaise" & "legacy sediment," contains deadly materials including mercury, lead, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides & the largest known in-river deposit of dioxin, the most cancer-causing substance ever created by humans.

The Community Advisory Group for the Passaic River Cleanup meets in Newark on the second Thursday of each month. To learn more, visit ourpassaic.org or call the US Environmental Protection Agency at (212) 637-4427.



The lower 17 miles of the Passaic River is a tidal estuary, where freshwater from the upper part of the river mixes with saltwater from the ocean.

As ocean tides go in & out, the river's water level rises & falls, exposing large mudflats at low tide.

During Hurricane Sandy in 2012, waves as tall as 10 feet hit Newark's riverfront, disabling critical infrastructure like Port Newark & PVSC. Global warming & rising sea levels threaten worse to come.

Support the river clean-up by attending Community Advisory Group meetings & spreading the word about the Superfund fight!

Newark Riverfront Parks Today & Tomorrow

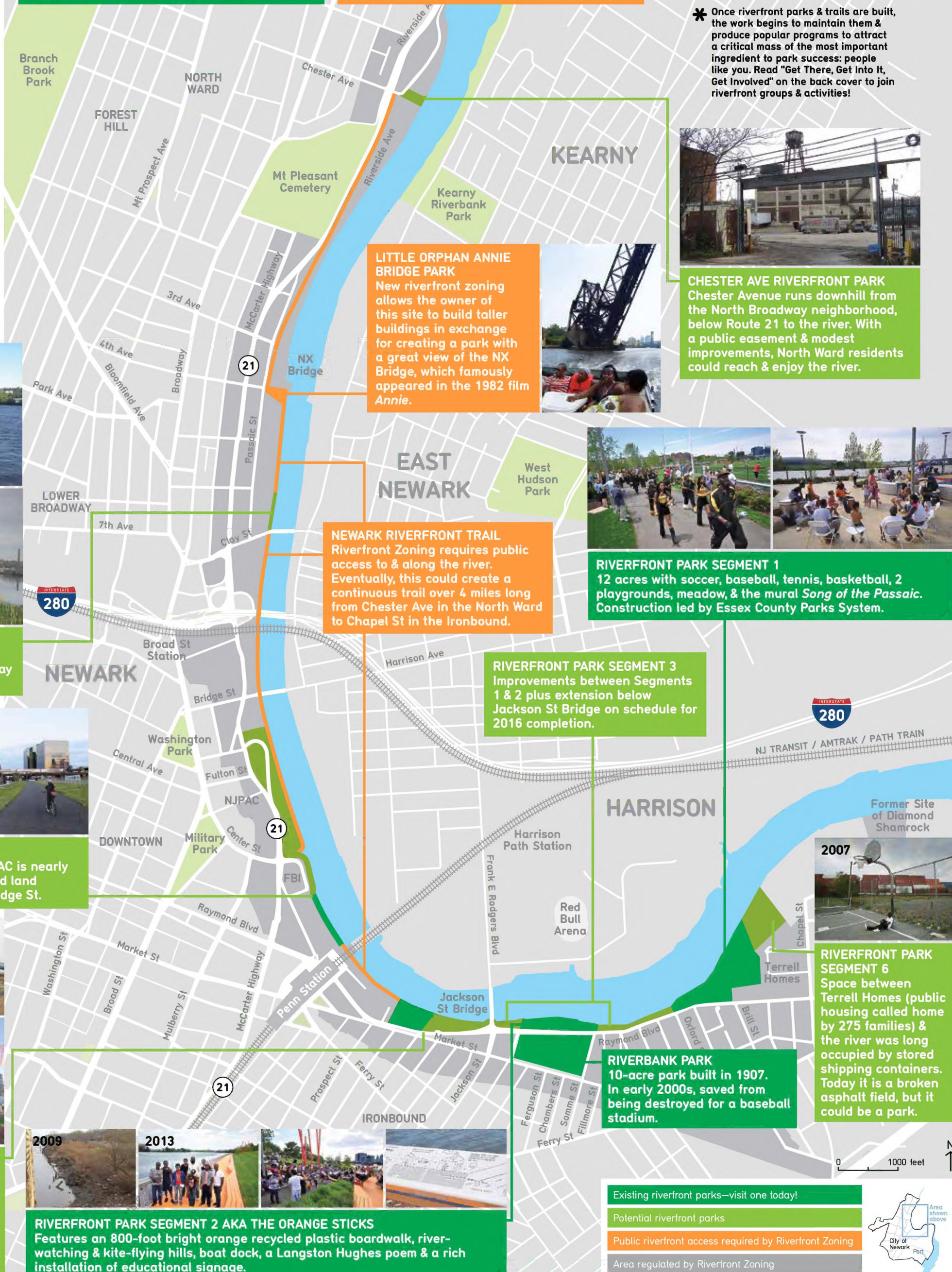
After decades of struggle for public access to the riverfront, the dream is coming true. Since 2012, the City & County have opened their first riverfront parks & adopted new riverfront zoning requiring that Newark residents & visitors are able to enjoy the Passaic River forever. On the map to the right, see where these places exist in 2014 & where more can be built in the future—if enough people get involved!

NEWARK RIVERFRONT PARKS
Despite plans to build Newark riverfront parks as early as 1922, until recently Newark did not have any public open space along the Passaic. In the 1990s, a coalition organized by Ironbound Community Corporation advocated new parks on their neighborhood's riverfront. In 2012 & 2013, the City & County opened Riverfront Park Segments 1 & 2 covering 15 acres.*

RIVERFRONT ZONING & PUBLIC ACCESS
In 2013, the Newark Municipal Council adopted *Newark's River Public Access & Redevelopment Plan*. The plan updated the city's development regulations along five miles of Passaic River (shown in gray on map below), including requirements that public riverfront access & open spaces must be built as part of all riverfront developments.*

POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS
These locations have been identified as potential riverfront parks but require more popular support, official support, money, land, or all the above! Read *Get There, Get Into It, Get Involved* on back cover to find out how you can help.*

* Once riverfront parks & trails are built, the work begins to maintain them & produce popular programs to attract a critical mass of the most important ingredient to park success: people like you. Read "Get There, Get Into It, Get Involved" on the back cover to join riverfront groups & activities!



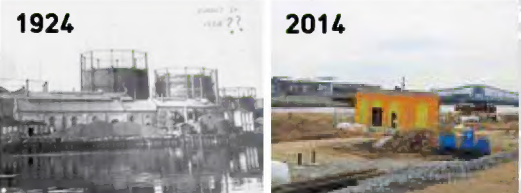
Artist Rendering



CLAY ST RIVERFRONT PARK
A 40-foot by 100-foot piece of City-owned property could become the Lower Broadway neighborhood's first riverfront park.



DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT TRAIL & PARK
A modest trail from Penn Station to NJPAC is nearly complete, with additional park-dedicated land available between the FBI building & Bridge St.



MARKET ST GASWORKS RIVERFRONT PARK SEGMENT 4
From the mid-1800s to the 1950s, the Market St Gas Works produced gas to light Newark's streetlights. Today, PSE&G is completing an environmental cleanup of the land, most of which is publicly owned & dedicated for future parks.



RIVERFRONT PARK SEGMENT 2 AKA THE ORANGE STICKS
Features an 800-foot bright orange recycled plastic boardwalk, river-watching & kite-flying hills, boat dock, a Langston Hughes poem & a rich installation of educational signage.



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE BRIDGE PARK
New riverfront zoning allows the owner of this site to build taller buildings in exchange for creating a park with a great view of the NX Bridge, which famously appeared in the 1982 film *Annie*.



CHESTER AVE RIVERFRONT PARK
Chester Avenue runs downhill from the North Broadway neighborhood, below Route 21 to the river. With a public easement & modest improvements, North Ward residents could reach & enjoy the river.



RIVERFRONT PARK SEGMENT 1
12 acres with soccer, baseball, tennis, basketball, 2 playgrounds, meadow, & the mural *Song of the Passaic*. Construction led by Essex County Parks System.

RIVERFRONT PARK SEGMENT 3
Improvements between Segments 1 & 2 plus extension below Jackson St Bridge on schedule for 2016 completion.



RIVERFRONT PARK SEGMENT 6
Space between Terrell Homes (public housing called home by 275 families) & the river was long occupied by stored shipping containers. Today it is a broken asphalt field, but it could be a park.

RIVERBANK PARK
10-acre park built in 1907. In early 2000s, saved from being destroyed for a baseball stadium.

- Existing riverfront parks—visit one today!
- Potential riverfront parks
- Public riverfront access required by Riverfront Zoning
- Area regulated by Riverfront Zoning



Get There, Get Into It & Get Involved

"We commit ourselves to this place, our only home & to the task of protecting water always & everywhere, favoring life in all its unfolding possibilities."
—Sister Carol Johnson, Newarker

Visit your river today! Riverfront Park is located north of Raymond Blvd between the Jackson St Bridge & Chapel St. Read Riverfront Parks Today & Tomorrow inside to learn how it can grow!



TRAIN

NJ Transit, PATH, or Newark City Subway to Newark Penn Station, then walk 10 minutes east on Raymond Blvd.

BUS

NJ Transit #1 bus to Ferry & Fillmore St, then walk 1 block east to Somme & 2 blocks north to Raymond Blvd.

CAR

Take Raymond Blvd from the east or Market & Ferry St from the west to reach the park at 1 Somme St. Parking available on Raymond Blvd just past Somme St or inside park near Raymond Blvd & Freeman St.

WALK, BIKE, OR SKATEBOARD

Just do your thing. Also try out the Downtown Trail!

NEWARK RIVERFRONT REVIVAL, an initiative of the Newark Planning Office, works to connect every Newarker to their river. We build parks, make plans & organize free & low-cost activities like concerts, tours, environmental workshops, movies, art, public exercise & sports to draw Newarkers & visitors from across the region to the water's edge & beyond.

Printed copies of this poster are free for all Newark educators, or download at newarkriverfront.org.

Visit the River

- Subscribe to our emails & attend riverfront events like boat & walking tours, concerts, festivals, dance parties & exercise classes.
- Invite Newark Riverfront Revival to meet your block club, neighborhood association, or other Newark group.

newarkriverfront.org
(201) 241-8311 & (973) 733-5868
newarkriverfront@gmail.com
NewarkRiverfrontRevival
@newarkriverfrnt

Get Involved

- Join Friends of Riverfront Park & volunteer for park events. To learn more, attend a monthly meeting at Riverbank Park Fieldhouse, email newarkfriendsofriverfrontpark@gmail.com, or call Ironbound Community Corporation at (973) 465-0555.
- Contribute to Newark Riverfront Revival & help connect Newarkers & others to the Passaic River.

Clean the Environment

- Support & watchdog the Passaic River Superfund Cleanup at monthly meetings of the Community Advisory Group. Learn more by calling the Environmental Protection Agency at (732) 888-9870.
- Help stop sewers overflowing into the river by removing paving & planting your property, using rain barrels & using less water.
- Keep floating garbage out of the river by not littering.



Essex County Executive
Joseph N. Di Vincenzo, Jr. &
the Essex County Board of
Chosen Freeholders



Mayor Ras J. Baraka and
the Newark Municipal Council



Friends of
Riverfront
Park



Poster researched, written & designed by
Newark Planning Office & MTWTF

PROJECT LEAD: Damon Rich

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PROJECT SUPPORT: National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Program Environmental Protection Agency Urban Waters Program | Ironbound Community Corporation Drew Curtis, Emily Taronis, Nancy Zak | Friends of Riverfront Park Linda Daniels, Rhonda Napier, Joe Nardone, Lenny Thomas, Illustrations courtesy of Vincent Bryant, Lenape Lifeways, New Jersey Historical Society, Newark Public Library, Harvard Graduate School of Design/Emmanuel Torres, & ICC/WRT

NEWARK GETS TOGETHER DOWN BY THE RIVER

LOVE
NEWARK

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NOW

We're training you people so they can jobs cleaning up the ri their own backyard

We're digging up this concrete so rain can be absorbed by the earth & not the sewers. It will grow in the plants!

Newark Walk the Water

Let's volunteer at
the ...

Let's check out a
fant House Party w

Let's celebrate...

Planning Board
at a proposed
development!

On my way to a Planning
meeting about a
riverfront develop

rest for a spell
by the river?

our crops—you know
ter in the street drain
s the sewers. Yuck!

We are building a dam to
separate the land from the river
by the federal government

Newark looks

We remember swim
the river 90 years ago
commend that

I want them to build
park in the next sec
of riverfront

We're all

We fought to save this park from being destroyed for a baseball stadium.

We at the US E
Protection Agency
polluting companies
million cubic yard

I can't believe the boat we built with just USE at school!

We fought to have a 70-foot stack of empty shipping containers moved so we can see the river!

THE RIVER BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

OUR TOWN ON THE PASSAIC & OTHER LIVING THINGS

NEWARK NEW JERSEY

[illegible]